

REMARKS

Claims 4-29 and 37-40 are pending and have been allowed. A clerical amendment has been made to claim 5 in order to eliminate an inadvertent repetition of the clause "engaging said teeth (21) in a locked position to prevent relative telescoping movement between" appearing in the original patent. This change is non-substantive and is fully supported by the disclosure. Consistent with the undersigned's discussions with the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richard Ridley, on November 29, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment has no effect on the patentability of the claim.

Regarding the Examiner's statement that the paper filed on October 13, 2005 is non-compliant, 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(2) and MPEP § 1453 require that amendments in a reissue application include "the entire text of each claim being changed *by such amendment paper*" as well as an explanatory parenthetical (emphasis added). The Applicant respectfully points out that the paper filed on October 13, 2005 did not make any amendments to the claims. Rather, it merely furnished a listing of all pending claims in the application as a matter of convenience and courtesy to the Examiner; no such listing was expressly required. Thus, the Examiner's indication that the paper is non-compliant is in error. Should the Examiner desire a complete listing of the claims in the reissue application relative to the original patent, his attention is directed to the Response filed March 21, 2005, which furnishes such a listing along with a history of the claims in the reissue application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and requests that the application be passed to issue. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned. In order to expedite issuance of the application, Applicant notes that the Examiner's supervisor has expressed a desire to be included in any such conversation.

No extension of time is believed necessary for this paper to be considered timely, and no fees are believed due with this response. However, any extension of time necessary to prevent

abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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